PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Hissink et al. Examiner: Jeffery T. Palenik

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I hereby certify that this correspondence and the correspondence referenced herein are being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via the Office's electronic filing system on **August 31, 2009**.

<u>Carla Bryan</u> /carla bryan/ (Printed Name) (Signature

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The Applicants are filing herewith a Request for Continued Examination and a Petition for a two-month Extension of Time in the above-captioned patent application. In addition, the Applicants have carefully considered the Advisory Action mailed on July 2, 2009 and the final Office Action mailed on March 31, 2009 and submit the following response to the issues raised therein:

Amendments to the Claims are shown in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.